



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

VOL. II.	1837—1838.	No. 14.
----------	------------	---------

Monday, January 15, 1838.

G. R. PORTER, Esq., F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were admitted Fellows of the Society.

Christopher Rawlinson, Esq., 4, Essex-Court, Temple.

William Taylor, Esq., 14, New Ormond-Street, Queen's-Sq.

The two following gentlemen were appointed Auditors to examine the accounts of the Society for 1837, in conjunction with Charles Hope Maclean, Esq., appointed on the part of the Council in accordance with the Regulations.

Peter Hardy, Esq.

Horatio Love, Esq.

The following gentlemen were balloted for, and were elected Fellows of the Society.

John Whiteman, Esq., 10, Hereford-Street.

Thomas E. Colebrooke, Esq., 41, York Terrace.

Thomas Joplin, Esq., 2, Montague-Street, Russell-Square.

Lestock Peach Wilson, Esq., 1, North Audley-Street.

The Rev. E. W. Edgell, North Cray, Kent.

Robert Few, Esq., 47, Doughty-Street.

A paper was read, entitled ‘An Account of the *Atelier de Charité*, a Charitable Institution for employing Indigent Persons,
VOL. II. D

at Ghent, and of a similar establishment at Petegem in Belgium; with a statement of the present condition of the Prisons in Ghent and of Gaols in Ireland, with reference to the Penitentiary System,' by Rawson W. Rawson, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

The *Atelier de Charité* at Ghent was founded in the year 1817, with the view of extirpating mendicity from that city. The Governors state in their Report, that its success, after a trial of eighteen years, has fully answered their expectations. The following details will explain the system at present in operation, and the condition of the establishment.

Its government consists of 15 members, under the presidency of the Burgomaster of the city, who meet once a week. *Only two* officers are employed under them; the Director of the Works, and the Accountant. Each branch of manufacture, however, has its master or chief workman, who delivers the raw material to the workmen, superintends their labours, and directs and instructs them individually. The workmen are admitted at the weekly meetings of the governors. All necessitous persons, of whatsoever age or sex, are admissible on the declaration of the Commissary of Police that they have a legal domicile in the city. Notwithstanding all indigent persons are admitted without distinction, yet almost all on the books are invalids, either from advanced age or from their infirmities. In the depth of winter only, some able-bodied workmen are found in the establishment. In ordinary years, the average number of inmates is from 7 to 800 in the winter season, of whom 400 are females; and in summer from 4 to 500. This number rose to 1800 in the calamitous season of 1831; but the difficulty of accommodation was so great, that it became impossible to maintain a proper discipline. The most important manufacture is that of packing-cloths, which are made from the waste of flax. Although spinning and weaving occupy the largest number of hands, there are tailors, shoe-makers, carpenters, manufacturers of lace, dress-makers, &c. &c. Formerly the work-people were paid daily wages; they now work by the piece, and according to a tariff. There is, therefore, little need of surveillance, as the interest of the workman secures his good conduct. Workmen wholly invalid, such as blind, lame, or paralytic, are paid by the day, and their work consists in picking and cleaning various substances. The principal manufactures carried on in the establishment, are—spinning of tow; weaving

of cloth made from tow ; spinning of the waste of flax ; weaving of packing-cloths ; spinning of wool ; shoe-making ; tailors' work ; carpenters' work ; lace-making ;—to which may be added street-cleaning.

The condition of the persons employed, although still calculated to inspire compassion, is such that they are free from the most pressing wants. They earn on an average 40 or 45 centimes a day ; their workshops are kept well heated in winter, well ventilated in summer, and at all times are neat and clean. The Governors consider that the loss to the Institution is in proportion to the cost of the raw materials. Attempts which had been made to introduce the manufacture of fine cloths, of tobacco, of sabots, &c. had produced very unprofitable results. The following is an account of the expenses and receipts during the year 1834 :—

	Francs.
Payments for Wages	57,682
Gratuities	599
Premiums for Encouragement ...	599
Officers' Salaries	3,300
Office Expenses	296
Firing and Lights.....	1,014
Cleansing, &c.	318
Furniture for Office	78
Building and Repairs	689
	<hr/>
	64,575
Receipts :—	
Produce of Manufactured Goods	82,989
Deduct cost of Raw Materials	58,167
	<hr/>
	24,822
Extraordinary Receipts	229
	<hr/>
	25,051
	<hr/>
Leaving an excess of Expenditure of	39,524

For this sum an aged and infirm population, to the number of 600, exclusive of their families, were provided with work, and kept from destitution and beggary. The expenses of management amounted only to 5698 francs. The average expense of each individual was 66 francs per annum, or less than 1s. 1d. per week, and for this annual expenditure mendicity is exterminated in Ghent.

A similar experiment has been made in the commune of Petegem. It appears to have been crowned with greater success in the first year than at Ghent. In 1832 there were 66 families in the district, comprising 248 individuals, of whom 156 were able to work, but had no employment and lived upon the fruits of begging and vagrancy. These were furnished with wheels for spinning flax, and a certain quantity of that material was distributed to them weekly. They were paid for the quantity of yarn spun at the market price, to which a fourth was added, partly for encouragement, partly to make up the sum necessary for their subsistence. The following is an account of the receipts and expenditure in the first year, 1833:—

	Francs.
The advances from the Commune were	2,000
„ „ „ Commission	2,005
The produce of Manufactured goods, consisting chiefly of Linen Yarn, was.....	14,464
Total	18,469
Expenses for Purchase of Flax	9,793
Amount of Wages	6,161
Purchase of Spinning Wheels	120
Expenses of Management	260
	<hr/> 16,334

Thus the receipts exceeded the expenditure by 2135 fr., from which, after deducting the advance from the commune, and the value of the wheels, there remains a surplus of 249 fr. Some other deductions are to be made, and it appears that the whole expense of keeping these 66 families, of 248 individuals, in employment, was 1329 fr., or 20 fr. per annum for each family.

An account was next given of the prison at Ghent, in which the same system of industry is pursued, and where the persons employed have a proportion of the produce of their labour.

Until the year 1823 the manufactures in this prison were carried on at the public expense, a stated salary being paid to a director; and it appears that up to that time there had always been a loss on the works. The government formed, towards the end of 1820, a council for the regulation of civil and military prisons, which, after three years of continued labour, succeeded in completing and introducing the new system into all the prisons,

under which the condition of the prisoners is greatly ameliorated, at a very moderate expense to the state. The prisons at Ghent produce annually a clear income of 50,000 florins. In those now referred to, the inmates are principally employed in weaving linen, and in making shirts, pantaloons, and gaiters, for the army and colonies. On entering the building there is heard a noise of looms and machinery, which causes the visitor to imagine himself in a large active manufactory rather than in a gaol. About 350 weaving looms are in full work, which give employment to 700 individuals; the other male prisoners are employed as spinners, winders, &c. The work is conducted under a strict rule of silence. The appearance of the prisoners indicates good health and cleanliness. The women are lodged in a separate division of the building, and are generally occupied in sewing and spinning, some in weaving linen. The government assigns to the prisoners a certain portion of the produce of the work, and retains the remainder to meet the expense of their maintenance. The prisoners are divided into three classes; the proportion of profit allowed to each class differs according to the nature of the crime and punishment; part of this allowance is paid to the prisoners for present expenses, and part is placed in a savings' bank, bearing an interest of 4 per cent. and is given to the prisoner on his dismissal. The deposits have been so considerable, that the Savings' Bank of the prisoners now contains a large capital.

This is a modification of the system at present adopted in the penitentiaries in this country, but it is on a much more extended footing, and the regulations for inducing the prisoners to work with zeal, and to acquire habits of industry and providence, are much superior. In the last Report of the Inspectors General of Prisons in Ireland, an abstract is given of the number of prisoners employed in trades during their confinement, in the year 1836. The total number of males was 2874, of whom only 366, or less than 13 per cent. were so employed; and of these, 123 learned their trades in the gaol.

Of the rest, 912 were employed in stone-breaking,
 476 , in prison duties,
 370 worked on the tread-wheel, and
 750 were unemployed or sick.

Of the Females, 148 were employed in needle-work,
 193 ,, knitting and spinning,
 105 ,, washing,
 106 ,, prison duties, and
 204 were unemployed or sick.

Making a total of 756

£.

The cost of the work completed by the Males was ... 3480
 Females 383
 ————3863

£.

The amount for which the work sold, was Males ... 5549
 Females 1059
 ————6608

Leaving a total profit of £ 2745

Appended to the Report is a useful table, showing the different trades, and other works, which might be introduced with advantage into all gaols in the United Kingdom, under the improved penitentiary system of prison discipline.

On the conclusion of this paper, the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Rawson for his preparation of it; and a lengthened discussion arose concerning the economical expediency, and political consequences, of introducing into England the system of employing paupers in productive labour adopted at Ghent.

It was announced that the Society will shortly publish a report of its inquiry into the state of education in St. Martin's and several other parishes of Westminster, and that it is at present prosecuting a similar inquiry in the parishes of St. Margaret's and St. John's.

An announcement was made of the formation of a Statistical Society at Liverpool, and of another at Belfast, stating them to be in communication with the Council of the Statistical Society of London.

It was also announced that a Committee had been formed, and was appointed by the Council, for the following purposes, namely:—

“ To collect the Statistics of Life, embracing enumerations of Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Population ; with or without distinction of Age, Sex, Climate, and Occupation.”

“ To point out the defects in existing observations ; to suggest improved forms and methods of gathering Statistics of Life, and to recommend those objects of inquiry to which attention may be most profitably directed.”

The following gentleman was proposed as a candidate for admission into the Society, and his name was ordered to be suspended in the meeting-room, in accordance with the Society's regulations :—

William Campbell Gillan, Esq., 44, Parliament-Street.
